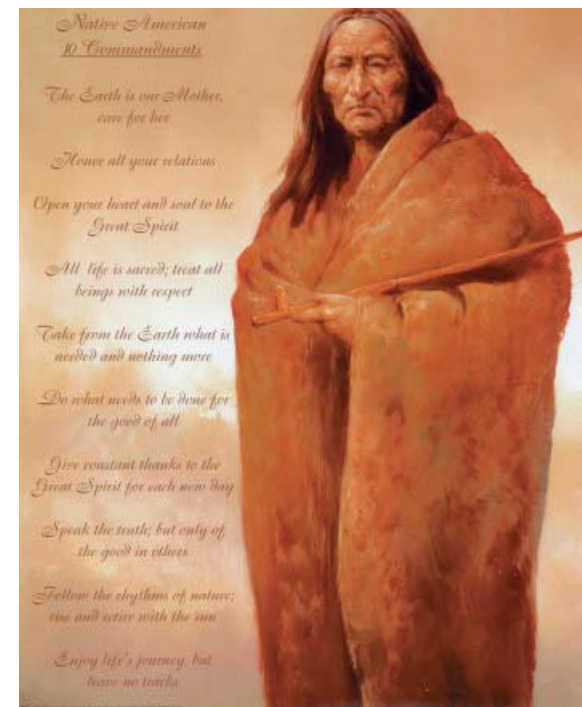


The ubiquity of Moses and the Ten Commandments as universally recognizable symbols of Law is seen in the incorporation of the Decalogue into the artwork of our public buildings where our laws are made, interpreted and executed. From the Supreme Court building in Washington to courthouses from Maine to California, the National Archives, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress all contain visual depictions of the great Hebrew



Lawgiver or his famous tablets. As Chief Justice Rehnquist wrote, such depictions in public buildings “emphasize the foundational role of the Ten Commandments in secular, legal matters.”

In addition to the Decalogue’s role as a fitting symbol in legal contexts, the Commandments have become part of secular and popular culture and discourse. This is easily



illustrated by the frequency with which the phrase “Ten Commandments of...” is used in our culture — not connected with religion at all — but to convey a set of important, authoritative rules or guidelines for a variety of activities. From the “Ten Commandments of Cell Phone Etiquette” to the “Ten Commandments of Gun Safety,” this commonplace use of the Decalogue underscores the universality of its role as a symbol of rules and order.

